Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring multimedia stream exchange session initialization messages transmitted in packet mode via a monitoring server over a network between a sender terminal and one or more receiver terminals, in a system comprising a router and the monitoring server, the method ~~comprising~~ comprising:

receiving a message packet and, if the received message packet is an initialization message packet, routing the received initialization message packet to the monitoring server; ~~the following steps:~~

~~receiving an initialization message packet;~~

estimating a bit rate value for ~~a set of initialization message packets comprising at least the received~~ a set of initialization message ~~packet,~~ packets comprising at least the received initialization message packet, the set of initialization message packets having been received by the monitoring server during a predetermined duration;

comparing the estimated bit rate value to a predetermined maximum authorized bit rate value for packets of initialization messages; and

authorizing transmission of the received initialization message packet only if the estimated bit rate value does not exceed the predetermined maximum authorized bit rate value for packets of initialization messages.

2.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein a transmission channel associated with a specific maximum authorized bit rate value for packets of initialization messages is defined for each pair comprising a sender terminal and a receiver terminal.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein estimating the bit rate value for the packet received by the monitoring server includes the following steps:

storing sizes of the latest packets of the initialization messages sent by the sender terminal to the receiver terminal and received by the monitoring server during a predetermined duration; and

dividing a sum of the sizes of the stored packets by the predetermined duration.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 4~~claim 1, wherein the monitoring server consists of a session initialization packet processor server of the network, and routing rules are defined to ensure that the packets of the session initialization messages systematically pass in transit through the processor server.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

8. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a monitoring server for monitoring multimedia stream exchange session initialization messages transmitted in packet mode over a network between a sender terminal and one or more receiver terminals, the server receiving initialization message ~~the~~packets from a router of the network and transmitting the packets to the network, the method comprising:

receiving an initialization message packet;

estimating a bit rate value for a set of initialization message packets comprising at least the received initialization message packet, the set of initialization message packets having been received by the monitoring server during a predetermined duration;

comparing the estimated bit rate value to a predetermined maximum authorized bit rate value for packets of initialization messages; and

authorizing transmission of the received initialization message packet only if the estimated bit rate value does not exceed the predetermined maximum authorized bit rate value for packets of initialization messages.

9. (Previously Presented) A system for transmitting multimedia stream exchange session initialization messages, including a network including one or more monitoring servers according to claim 8.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein estimating the bit rate value for the packet received by the monitoring server includes the following steps:

storing sizes of the latest packets of the initialization messages sent by the sender terminal to the receiver terminal and received by the monitoring server during a predetermined duration; and

dividing a sum of the sizes of the stored packets by the predetermined duration.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).